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Editorial

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Editorial

Dear Reader

Last year, my co-Editor-in-Chief Steve Woods decided to step down from the Editorship, and I am very happy that Randall Sakai subsequently agreed to take on the position. Steve put an enormous amount of work into the journal during his term of office. During that time, the total number of full-text downloads of papers published in *Physiology & Behavior* increased to half a million per year, and its impact factor steadily increased to its current level of 2.4. Steve initiated a wide variety of special issues, and has strengthened the connections of the journal with the fields of food intake and body weight regulation. The journal, and hence the readership, owes a lot to him.

Randall Sakai is a leading scientist with an excellent track record in behavioral neuroscience and behavioral neuroendocrinology. He trained as a biologist at the University of Pennsylvania, and is now a full professor in Psychiatry at the University of Cincinnati (Medical Center). As a Postdoc he had a thorough training in the neurobiology of stress and adaptation at the Rockefeller University. His current research involves the role of the renin-angiotensin system and adrenal steroids in mediating thirst and sodium appetite. These studies provide animal models in which to study innate motivated behaviors, as related to conditions such as dehydration, hypertension and adrenal insufficiency. Another area of his research investigates the behavioral, neuroendocrine, and neurochemical effects associated with chronic stress. His studies of the mechanisms underlying the regulation of the stress response, as well as the long-term consequences of stress, contribute to rational clinical therapies for treatment of affective disorders, such as depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.

I am happy that Randall, with his broad scientific interest and view, has accepted the task as co-editor of *Physiology & Behavior*. I look forward to the continuation of a fruitful collaboration with the American office, in our joint effort to further improve the scientific quality of the journal.

We have already incorporated a number of changes to the journal. The Editors-in-Chief and Elsevier have agreed to tighten and focus its aims and scope. True to its name, the journal is committed to publishing studies that are aimed at understanding the causal relationship between physiology and behavior. Papers with only behavioral data or an exclusive physiological approach are urged to discuss the interrelationship between physiology and behavior.

We are also committed to shortening the editorial review time period to less than 40 days from submission to time of first decision (revise, accept, reject). We encourage our authors at time of manuscript submission to suggest the names of 3–4 reviewers to accelerate the review process. After acceptance, publication online of the final article is already within 6 weeks.

We are also rotating some of the members of the Editorial Board. We would like to thank those members rotating off the Board who have helped achieve growing success and consistency of the journal. We would also like to welcome and introduce the new members on the Board, who include: Juan Domingues, Randy Nelson, Ron Jandacek, Tim Bartness, Andrea Sgoifo, and Pierre Mormède.

Finally, you will see that there is a new cover design for *Physiology & Behavior*.

This more modern cover will feature a regularly changing picture, related to papers published in the journal. Authors are encouraged to provide illustration material suitable for the cover when they submit their article for review.

We are excited and encouraged with the challenges of implementing the changes to the journal, and we look forward to working and representing you, the authors, in further developing and strengthening all aspects of *Physiology & Behavior*.

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